CLAIMS:

1. A method of retrieving data requested by a host from a first memory divided into allocation units, the method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

(a) determining in which allocation units the requested data is stored;

(b) searching a list of references to allocation units to determine whether the list comprises a reference to at least one of the allocation units determined in the previous step;

(c) when a reference to at least one allocation unit determined in the first step is comprised in the list, storing a first part of the data stored in the at least one allocation unit in a second memory; and

(d) retrieving the requested data, wherein the first part of the requested data is retrieved from the second memory and a second part of the requested data is retrieved from the first memory, the second part of the requested data being complementary to the first part of the requested data.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first memory has a nominal data retrieval rate and the list is built up by using a method comprising the steps of:

(a) monitoring an average retrieval rate with which data is retrieved from the first memory;

(b) determining whether the average retrieval rate drops below the nominal data retrieval rate;

(c) when the average retrieval rate drops below the nominal data retrieval rate, determining a part of the data of which retrieval causes the drop of the average retrieval rate;

(d) adding to the list a reference to the allocation units in which data is stored of which the retrieval causes the drop of the average retrieval rate.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the list comprises references to re-assigned allocation units.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the requested data is stored in fragments in the first memory and the list comprises references to a predetermined number of allocation units of each fragment.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the list comprises references to allocation units from which data cannot be retrieved in one read operation.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data is a stream of audio-visual data and the file is retrieved in a sequence dictated by the host.

7. An apparatus for retrieving data requested by a host from a first memory, the apparatus comprising:

(a) means for receiving data from the first memory, the first memory being divided into allocation units;

(b) a second memory; and

(c) a central processing unit;

characterized in that the central processing unit is conceived to:

(d) determine in which allocation units the requested data is stored;

(e) search a list of references to allocation units to determine whether the list comprises a reference to at least one of the allocation units in which the requested data is stored;

(f) when at least one allocation unit in which the requested data is stored is comprised in the list, store the data stored in the at least one allocation unit in a second memory; and

(g) retrieve the requested data, wherein a first part of the requested data stored in the second memory is retrieved from the second memory and a second part of the requested data is retrieved from the first memory, the second part of the requested data being complementary to the first part of the requested data.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first memory is a harddisk drive system and second memory is a solid-state memory.

9. A system for reproducing audio-visual information, comprising the apparatus as claimed in 6 and the first memory.